

Remarks/Arguments

This RCE amendment has been prepared in response to the Office Action of February 3, 2010 regarding the above-identified U.S. Patent Application.

In that Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,218,405 to Aschenbrenner et al. in view of both U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0196493 of Christiansen et al., and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0008885 of Caldato et al., and rejected claims 2 and 4 as being unpatentable over Aschenbrenner et al. also in view of both Christiansen et al. and Caldato et al.

Caldato et al is a newly cited and applied reference in the prosecution history of this application. Previously cited and applied U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/01980045 of Matsuhara et al. has been dropped from consideration in this case based upon applicants' last-filed responsive Amendment.

Following a thorough review of the Examiner's new Action, and of the proposed new combination of references including the new Caldato et al. reference, applicants propose herein certain changes in the claims presented in this application which are believed to bring out even more clearly than before the distinguishing features of their invention, which features, applicants assert, have already been presented in the claims up to this point during the prosecution of this application in distinctive conditions relative to the cited and applied prior art.

No new matter has been introduced.

As the Examiner is by now well aware, the present invention concerns a PDF-exclusive method and apparatus for handling, specially, PDF image-only data in the context of

dealing with an “input” PDF data stream. According to the invention, such a PDF data stream is queried in order to detect whether it contains, in addition to any PDF non-image-only file data, one or more blocks of PDF image-only file data, and on detecting the latter, effects the deflection and channeling of that PDF image-only file data, in a separated fashion, to a dedicated pipeline which is dedicated exclusively to the pre-printing processing (rendering, rasterizing, etc.) of such image-only data.

Notwithstanding the contrary positions taken by the Examiner with respect to the supposed contents of the three cited and applied references, combined in the current Action in accordance with the Examiner’s claim-rejection thinking, respectfully stated, these references simply do not contain the elements which, even if properly combined which they are not, are capable of producing applicants’ claimed methodology and apparatus.

To begin with, not a single one of these references discloses a truly *PDF-exclusive* apparatus or methodology for handling a PDF data stream of the type which may include both image-only and non-image-only data. Further, none of these references, in the context of “exclusivity” differentiation just stated, also shows or suggests any *structure or methodology for querying* a PDF data stream (of the type just mentioned) for the purpose of distinguishing image-only from non-image-only data. Additionally, and in this truly significant landscape of differentiation between applicants’ invention and the showings and suggestions of the cited and applied prior art, not one of the references makes any suggestion whatsoever about effecting a deflection and separation-channeling of image-only and non-image-only PDF data for separate pipelining for separate, pre-printing processing.

Accordingly, there is no supportable basis for asserting that the herein now cited and applied prior art teaches or suggests the deflection, channeling and pipelining of PDF image-only data into a separate and dedicatedly exclusive pipeline for pre-printing processing, such as for ripping/rendering.

The deficiencies of the cited and applied art are very evident to the careful reader.

Aschenbrenner et al. points out, in a column 10, lines 4-8, inclusive, that “print server 120 processes pages of output that *mix all of the elements normally found in presentation documents, e.g., text in typographic fonts, electronic forms, graphics, image, lines boxes, and bar codes*”(Emphasis Added). Such a *mix* clearly does not contemplate a querying about the presence of, and the pre-separation at any point of, PDF image-only and PDF non-image-only data.

Further in column 10, at lines 25,26 in Aschenbrenner et al., the patentees there point out that “PDF page objects are rendered by the RIP 150”, without drawing any distinction whatsoever between PDF image-only and PDF non-image-only data. *All* PDF page objects, without separation, are sent to RIP 150.

Further, if one takes a very careful look at Fig. 5 in the Aschenbrenner et al. reference, to which figure the Examiner calls attention, the figure in this reference which illustrates the operational method of the patented invention, the flow-separation which one sees there (Block 510) that relates to data which is to be processed for printing is a separation based *only* upon whether or not image data fed to this block contains or does not contain (or carry with it) *a mapped color profile -- mapped as a so-called Secondary Reference*. In other words, this

separation has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with splitting away image-only data from non-image-only data, but rather effecting a separation with respect to image data which contains or does not contain the stated, mapped color profile.

The Christiansen et al. reference, while it is selectively, and only in part, configurable to handle specific pipelining of PDF data, is not dedicated to the handling of such data, and with respect to the handling of such data, furnishes all PDF data, image-only and non-image only, undifferentiated, to a common pipeline. This is made very clearly evident in Fig.1 in this patent, and in the text presented in paragraph [0020].

The newly cited and applied Caldato et al. reference describes the handling of data downstream from where applicants' claimed, important querying about, and resulting deflection and separation-channeling of, PDF image-only and non-image-only data take place. In other words, and looking particularly at Fig. 10, data which is input for handling (in what is referred to in this reference as a transformation process to prepare it for delivery to specific, final output devices) is all *already rasterized* data (Block 1 in this figure). There is absolutely nothing in this reference which suggests a system or a methodology which, upstream from Block 1, receives and queries a PDF data stream for the purpose of identifying and distinguishing image-only from non-image-only data, followed by a deflection and separation-channeling as set forth in applicants' claims.

As mentioned above, applicants have herein proposed certain changes in their claims, and specifically current amendments in claims 1-3, inclusive, to make the distinguishing features of their invention more clear against the background of the clearly inapplicable, cited and

applied prior art. Accordingly, with entry of the present RCE Amendment, applicants respectfully assert that all claims now presented in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, are distinguishable over the three cited and applied prior art references, and are therefore patentable. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of this application, and allowance of all claims now presented therein, are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

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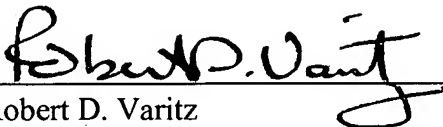
Respectfully Submitted,

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